

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device ~~Device~~ for treating thin-sectioned tissues ~~(6) on a support plate (1)~~ with at least one treatment liquid, ~~characterized in that the~~ which comprises a support plate for said tissues (1) is and an object support for said treatment liquid, said support plate disposed opposite an said object support (4) in a treatment position (14) and that , wherein said device is adapted so that a plurality of said several object supports can be automatically placed into this said treatment position (14).

2. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support plate (1) defines comprises an underside and an upper side (1b) on which are indicated , said underside having marked marking positions (2a) at which are positioned and small metal screens nets (2) with for mounting said thin-sectioned tissues (2b), and that said support plate (1) defines an , said upper side (1a) in which are present several having a plurality of holes with magnets (3a) in each of which is wedged a magnet (3), said holes (3a) being disposed opposite the marked positions (2a).

3. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim ~~claims~~ 1 and 2, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said marked positions (2a) for the small said metal nets screens (2) are formed as elevations on the underside (1b) of the support plate (1).

4. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim ~~claims~~ 1 and 2, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said magnets (3) in the holes (3a) on the upper side (1a) of the support plate (1) are permanent magnets or electromagnets.

5. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim ~~claims~~ 1 and 2, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said support plate (1) is made comprised of a dimensionally stable material [[,]] preferably of aluminum, brass or a fiber reinforced plastic material.

6. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim ~~claims 1 and 2~~, characterized ~~in that the~~ wherein said support plate (1) is treated with a hydrophobic coating on the underside ~~(1b) that carries the small~~ carrying said metal nets screens (2).

7. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim ~~claims 1 and 2~~, characterized ~~in that the marked~~ wherein said object support comprises an upper side with recesses for containment of said treatment liquid, said recesses ~~positions (2a) on the underside (1b) of the~~ support plate (1) ~~on which rest the small~~ positioned opposite said metal screens ~~nets (2) are~~ located ~~opposite the positions of the recesses (5) containing the liquid drops (6) on the upper side~~ (4a) of the object support (4).

8. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim ~~claims 1 and 2~~, characterized ~~in that the~~ further comprising means for holding said support plate and conveying means with motor means for raising and lowering said support plate (1) ~~is attached via a holder (9) to the holding~~ head (23) ~~of a conveying device (20) with motor driven raising and lowering function.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim ~~8~~, characterized ~~in that the~~ conveying device (20) ~~comprises~~ further comprising computer means and position sensors for is automatically controlled by an attached computer unit (25) and position sensors (7) automatic control of said conveying means.

10. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claim ~~1~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein said the object support (4) ~~defines~~ comprises an upper side (4a) ~~containing free with free~~ recesses (5) ~~configured~~ adapted for receiving the treatment liquid (6).

11. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to claims 1 and claim ~~10~~, characterized ~~in that the~~ wherein said object support (4) is comprised made of a transparent, dimensionally stable material[[,]] ~~preferably of~~ selected from the group consisting of glass [[or]] and a fiber-reinforced plastic material.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The device~~ Device according to ~~claims 1 and 10~~, characterized in that the ~~wherein said~~ object support (4) ~~is treated with~~ comprises a hydrophobic coating on the upper side (4a) ~~that contains~~ containing the recesses (5).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The device~~ Device according to ~~claims 1 and claim 12~~ 10, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the depth of the recesses (5) on the upper side (4a) of the object support (4) is about the same as the thickness of the hydrophobic coating layer.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The device~~ Device according to ~~claims 1 and claim 10~~, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the liquid volume of the recesses (5) of the object support (4) amounts to 50 μ L and preferably is at least 5 μ L.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The device~~ Device according to ~~claims 1 and claim 10~~, wherein characterized in that the treatment liquid is a marking and/or washing solution for carrying out immunological marking techniques for thin-sectioned tissues.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The device~~ Device according to claim ~~claims 1 and 10~~, characterized in that for identification purposes the ~~wherein said~~ object support (4) ~~is provided with further~~ comprises [[a]] data storage device (4e) in the form of a bar code and/or chip for data storage.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The device~~ Device according to ~~claims 1 and claim 10~~, characterized in that the positions of ~~wherein~~ the recesses (5) ~~with for~~ the liquid drops (6) treatment liquid on the upper side (4a) of the object support (4) are arranged opposite the positions of the ~~small metal~~ screens ~~nets~~ (2) on the underside (1b) of the support plate (1).

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The device~~ Device according to ~~claims 1 and claim 10~~, characterized in that the further comprising conveyor means for transmission of said object support , (4) is

~~disposed on a conveyor (24) which by means of a guiding track (22) and a motor (26), said guiding track and motor providing means for establishing~~ establishes a said treatment position.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The device Device according to claims 1 and claim 18 10, further comprising computer means and position sensor means for automatically controlling said characterized in that the control of the conveyor (24) occurs automatically by means of an attached computer unit (25) and position sensors (7).~~

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The device Device according to claim 18 claims 1 and 10, characterized in that on the , wherein on said conveyor (24) the said object support (4) is provided with [[a]] cover means (10) so as to form a chamber therefor, said device including means for at least partially opening said cover means that can be automatically at least partly opened, a chamber (11) being created as a result.~~

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The device Device according to claims claim 20, wherein said characterized in that the chamber (11) is provided with further comprises means for holding an a holder (12) onto which is placed absorbent paper (13) so that high for elevated humidity is created in said chamber (11) and so that the for minimizing evaporation of the treatment liquid drops (6) on the object supports (4) is minimized.~~

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A method Method for treating thin-sectioned tissues on a support plate (1) with at least one treatment liquid, characterized by the following by the steps which comprise:~~

~~(i) filling at least one object support (4) on which are present comprising recesses (5) with a treatment liquid (6);~~

~~(ii) bringing the object support (4) into a treatment position;~~

~~(iii) lowering the support plate (1) onto the object support (4) thereby bringing about for contact between the treatment liquid (6) and the thin-sectioned tissues (2b), and~~

~~(iv) automatically moving the object support (4) to the a next treatment position.~~

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The method Method~~ according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the treatment of the thin-sectioned tissues (2b) ~~consists of~~ comprises immunological marking and/or washing steps.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The method Method~~ according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the treatment of the thin-sectioned tissues (2b) is carried out automatically.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The method Method~~ according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that comprising the step of positioning~~ the thin-sectioned tissues (2b) ~~are located~~ on small metal screens ~~nets (2)~~ that rest on marked and ~~raised~~ elevated positions on (2a) of the underside (1b) of the support plate (1) ~~of the invention and are kept maintained~~ in place by magnets (3) magnetic means disposed on the upper side (1a) of the support plate (1).

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The method Method~~ according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that by means including the step of a holder (9) holding~~ the support plate (1) ~~is fastened by fastening~~ to a holding head (23) of a conveying device (20) with automatic raising and lowering ~~function functionalities~~.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The method Method~~ according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that the recesses (5) located on the upper side (4a) of the object support (4) are filled including the step of filling said recesses~~ with a marking and/or washing solution for ~~carrying out performing~~ immunological marking techniques for thin-sectioned tissues.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The method Method~~ according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that the conveying device (2) with automatic raising and lowering function brings comprising the step of bringing~~ the object support (4) into a treatment position so that the treatment liquid drops (6) in the recesses (5) ~~on the upper side (4a) of the object support (4) are is~~ located exactly opposite the

thin-sectioned tissues (2b) on the small metal screens nets (2) on the underside (1b) of the support plate (1).

29. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that the~~ comprising the step of transporting said object support to said treatment position (4) ~~is located on~~ a by means of a conveyor (24) that is moved into a treatment position with the aid of a guiding track (22) and [[a]] motor (26).

30. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that the~~ 29, including the step of controlling control of the conveying device (20) occurs said conveyor with the aid of a computer unit (25) and position sensors (7).

31. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 30, 22, ~~characterized in that the control~~ including the step adjusting said conveyor of conveying device (20) is adjusted so that the support plate (1a) is brought in close proximity to the object support (4), wherein and the thin-sectioned tissues (2b) on the small metal screens nets (2) come in contact with the treatment liquid drops (6) on the object support (4).

32. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 22, including the step of at least partially automatically opening a chamber for the liquid on said object support characterized in that, before contact occurs between the thin-sectioned tissues (2b) on the support plate (1) and the treatment liquid drops (6) on the object support (4), the cover (10) of the object support (4) is automatically opened at least in part.

33. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ contact between the comprising the step of contacting said thin-sectioned tissues (2b) on the support plate (1) and with the treatment liquid drops (6) on the object support (4) is maintained over any desired incubation period.

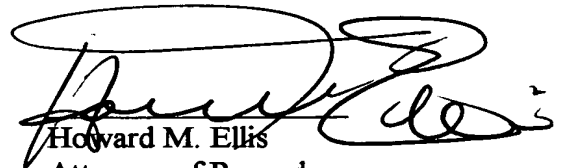
34. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ 33 comprising the step of automatically lifting said support plate ~~in that~~ at the end of the incubation period ~~the support plate (1) is automatically lifted~~ along the guiding tracks (8), and the object support (4) on the conveyor (24) is automatically brought into another treatment position ~~via a motor-driven guiding track (22)~~.

35. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support plate ~~defines~~ comprises an underside (1b) ~~on which are provided with~~ marked positions (2a) on which are located ~~small metal-nets (2) screens~~ with said thin-sectioned tissues (2b), ~~and that said support plate (1) defines having~~ an upper side (1a) ~~in which there are formed several with a plurality of holes (3a) into each of which is wedged with magnets magnet~~ (3), said holes (3a) being located opposite the marked positions (2a).

36. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the object support (4) ~~defines~~ comprises an upper side (4a) containing free recesses (5) configured for receiving the treatment liquid (6).

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Respectfully submitted,



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